



SAN ANTONIO

POLICE

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NEWS RELEASE

OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING

A preliminary investigation pertaining to an officer involved shooting reveals the following: On March 9, 2006, at approximately 8:22pm, San Antonio Police officers Michael Garza, a 4-year veteran, and Officer Hartford Lemm, a 4 ½ year veteran, conducted a traffic stop in the 600 Blk. of Rio Grande St. While the officers were talking to the driver, he suddenly began to run from the officers eastbound on Canton St. The suspect ran behind 917 Canton with officers in pursuit. While the officers were looking for the driver/suspect, another unknown male appeared in the rear of 923 Canton and confronted Officer Garza. Officer Garza saw that the second suspect was armed with an AK-47 assault rifle and then saw the suspect point the rifle in his direction. Fearing for his life, Officer Garza fired one shot towards the suspect, striking the suspect in the left arm. After being hit by Officer Garza's bullet, the suspect dropped his rifle and was able to be taken into custody.

The original suspect, who fled from the traffic stop, was found hiding in a backyard shed and taken into custody by an SAPD K-9 unit. That suspect suffered a dog bite from K-9 and was treated at the scene.

A vehicle believed to have dropped off the second suspect (armed with the AK-47) was found abandoned approximately one block away. The vehicle was found abandoned with its engine running. The driver of the abandoned car was later located and arrested. Specifics charges on all suspects will be determined and released to the public on 03-10-06.

Recovered weapons are the following:

- A shotgun found inside of the vehicle involved in the original traffic stop.
- The AK-47 recovered from the second suspect.
- A semi-auto handgun was found inside of the getaway vehicle.

The identity of the suspects will be withheld pending formal charges. At this point, it has not been determined what, if any, relationship the two suspects have.

The San Antonio Police Department's shooting Team is handling the investigation and will submit their findings to Police Chief Albert A. Ortiz and the Bexar County District Attorney's Office. As per policy, Officer Garza will be placed on administrative duty while the investigation continues.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE